

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
January 20, 2021



Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Upcoming Dates:

January 25, 6:30 p.m. – Leadership Opens Opportunities Forum (in place of district presidents’ midyear dinner – open to ALL Rotarians!) – see email from Claudia Frost to register

January 27 – Joyce Kennedy, The University of Maine

January 27 – Board meeting following the regular meeting (postponed from last week)

January 29-30 – Virtual WinterFest

February 10 – Hank Berg, Casco Bay Lines GM, Off to the Islands!

OPENING WORDS

January 20: Bob Knupp quoted from John F. Kennedy’s inauguration speech in January, 1960:
“So, let us begin anew remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never fear to negotiate.”
“And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”

What's New With Our Members

Happy Anniversary to Bob & Judy Knupp - 56 years on January 30!

Congratulations to Patty Sprague, who was selected to be a member of our District's 20/21 International Outreach Team!

Congratulations to Bill York, who has had his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine! He comments: "NHS is really being stressed - wonderful (underpaid) people risking their lives for me. Wish I could repay them in some fashion."

Welcome to Coach Aaron Filieo who visited us this week - we are so indebted to his team for all the help they provided during the tree sale.

Feel better, President Mike! - Mike was under the weather so President-Elect Dave Bagdasarian tried his hand at running the meeting (and did a great job, as you would expect).

Hello to all the members who we don't get to see online, with a special shout out this week to Sybil Riemensnider and Peter deGennaro.

Thank you to Bob Knupp for attending the district's Grow Rotary session this morning and learning some tips that he'll share with our club leaders.

Tony Gets his Crystal – As a follow-up to last week's bulletin, in which Tony Wagner was presented his Major Donor Level 2 crystal virtually, he received it in reality this week. Mike McGovern presented it to him in his driveway – congratulations and thanks again for your generosity, Tony and Sally!



Rachel Walls Fine Art – Remember the good ole days when we packed into Rachel Walls’ gallery at Fort Williams for a meeting a couple years ago and sat practically on top of each other! Obviously that’s not possible anymore but you can still view the art in her gallery by viewing her virtual gallery tour – go to <https://www.rachelwallsfineart.com/>

A Treasure Trove of Information about MSMT – Our speaker this week was Curt Dale Clark, the Artistic Director of Maine State Music Theater in Brunswick. Curt Dale received a Rotary scholarship when he was 16 and is now a member of the Brunswick Rotary Club. He first came to Brunswick as an actor 16 years ago and fell in love with the town; he has been the artistic director for nine years. My notes go on for pages with all the interesting behind-the-scenes information that he shared with us. So I’ll just list some snippets from his talk:

- ❖ Victoria Crandall, who founded MSMT, had 1,100 pairs of shoes in her house when she died;
- ❖ The theater company budget has increased from \$160,000 in its first year to \$6.8 million today;
- ❖ The theater needs to house 240 people over the course of the summer, which accounts for a huge chunk of their budget;
- ❖ The theater has been purchasing and renovating old homes, such that now they can house 100 people in their own properties (i.e. saving on rent);
- ❖ The Pickard Theater where they perform was “built” by Joshua Chamberlain;
- ❖ There are 11,000 subscribers to MSMT;
- ❖ Last year he selected 161 interns from over 6,000 applicants;
- ❖ In 2015, 51 of their interns ended up on Broadway;
- ❖ Anna Kendrick is one of their intern alums;
- ❖ The financial impact on the local economy is estimated to be \$16 million per season.

By March 1, Curt Dale indicated that they will need to make a decision about whether they can go forward with their first show (Kinky Boots), which is scheduled to open June 4 – fingers crossed! Other shows for the upcoming season are scheduled to be:

- Cinderella (which has magnificent costumes already designed for it)
- The Color Purple
- Jersey Boys

Look for an article in the Maine Sunday Telegram about the challenges of operating a theater during the pandemic (at least I think that’s what it’s about) in which Curt Dale Clark was interviewed.



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PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE**

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